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## CLAIMS

1. Dispensing device for drinks or similar dosable liquid foodstuffs, in particular coffee, milk, soft drinks or soups, comprising:
  - 10 - an identification means (10) to detect a vertical height of a container (1) for receiving the foodstuff and to send out a height signal;
  - a filling mechanism (10) the height of which is adjustable relative to the container (1), and
  - 15 - a control means (9) that in response to the height signal adjusts the filling mechanism (20) to a presettable filling height with respect to the container (1), before the container (1) is filled with the foodstuff.
- 20 2. Dispensing device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control means (9) is so designed that after a filling procedure has been completed, the filling mechanism (20) is moved into a waiting position in which its height above the container (1) is maximal.
- 25 3. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the control means (9) is so designed that various filling heights can be stored in memory.

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4. Dispensing device according to Claim 3,  
characterized in that the various filling heights can be  
stored in association with various foodstuffs.
- 5 5. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the identification means (10)  
comprises at least one filling-state sensor (15, 16), by  
way of which a maximal filling state for the container (1)  
can be set when the container (1) is being filled with the  
foodstuff.
- 10 6. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the identification means (10)  
comprises a programmable memory (11) in which height  
signals corresponding to various identification signals are  
stored.
- 15 7. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the identification means (10)  
comprises sensors (14) to detect the height of the  
container (1).
- 20 8. Dispensing device according to Claim 7,  
characterized in that the sensors (14) are constructed as  
light barriers.
- 25 9. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the identification means (10)  
comprises reading means (18) to read information provided  
on the container (1).

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10. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims,  
characterized by a learning means (12) with a manually  
actuatable adjustment means (13) to adjust the position of  
the filling mechanism (20) and to store a height signal  
5 associated with a particular container (1).

11. Dispensing device according to one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that the filling mechanism (20) comprises  
a container receptacle (21) that is fixed in position and a  
movable dispensing region (22) that is connected to  
10 foodstuff-supply means (26, 27) in such a way that a  
distance over which the foodstuff must pass on the way from  
the supply means (26, 27) to the outlet into the open air  
is independent of the height of the filling mechanism (20)  
above the container receptacle (21).

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